



# HI-Q

## THE LAKEHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB JOURNAL

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**LARC- Suite 184, 1100C Memorial Ave., Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, P7B 4A3**

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**Founding President**  
**P. J. (Pat) O'Shea VE3FW**

LARC maintains the Club call **VE3FW**  
to honour his memory.

**Senate**

Keith Fiske VE3JQ  
Ray Forslund VE3EDZ  
Ray Greer VE3CH  
Dave Kimpton, VE3AVS  
Bill Klemacki VE3AJ  
Bill Roberts VE3ARN

**Executive Board**

<b>President:</b>	Skip Wright.....	VE3BBS 768-7934
<b>Vice Pres:</b>	Bob Hansen.....	VE3RVA 767-6924
<b>Secretary:</b>	Judy Artist.....	VA3EAP 345-2218
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Jan Sokoloski.....	VA3JRS 344-3222
<b>Directors:</b>	Andy Malcolm .....	VE3INI 345-1858
	Ed Baumann .....	VE3SNW 626-9720
	Maureen Meredith .....	VA3MOB 344-7868
	Pat Pugh.....	VA3PP 345-8562
<b>Past Pres:</b>	Ian Mellis .....	VA3RIM 577-1628

**LARC Repeaters (open access)**

**VE3YQT Mt. Baldy 147.060 - OFFSET FP**  
**VE3TBR St. Joseph's Heritage 1 146.820 – OFFSET FP**  
**VE3TBB Upsala, ON 145.470 – OFFSET(linked to**  
**VE3YQT)**  
**VE3BGA Hillcrest H.S. 147.390 – OFFSET**

Lakehead Amateur Radio Club History Project

### THE PREZ SAYS

As the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club embarks on its 66th year of existence I am excited about the prospects and what we can accomplish as a group in the upcoming year. There are some big projects looming on the horizon. The letter from the City of Thunder Bay regarding the 55 Plus Center in the South Ward (see minutes) has enormous possibilities for the club and its members. The western VHF link, imagine talking on your 2 meter hand held to another ham in Dryden, Kenora or even Winnipeg. We still have all our public service events to carry on, VA3GOT Randy talked of ARES exercises, we have the use of a fully rigged amateur station at Environment Canada, a weather reporting net from around the area. It's time to look at call books again for the North Western Ontario area. Judging by the attendance at the September meeting the interest is there. It was nice to see people standing because all the chairs were taken. That's the way it should be, lively discussions, exchange of ideas QRP, DX, 2M, HF, APRS, PSK and more.

To the outgoing executive, I say Thank You, to the incoming executive, I say Let's do it, to the members, I say It's is YOUR club, get involved.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF THE LARC IS  
ON OCTOBER 12 AT 1930 HOURS IN ROOM  
207B OF THE MCINTYRE BUILDING  
CONFEDERATION COLLEGE. WELCOME ALL.**

**TBARBs.....****FIELD DAY 2000(QRP STYLE)**

This year had a new twist to Field Day for Fred **VE3FAL** and Dave **VE3AVS** as they decided to operate QRP from the Terry Fox Memorial Lookout just east of the city. The following is a log of the events for **VE3FAL/3**:

Saturday June 24: lovely day, arrive on site 1400Z, unload and set up tent. Dipoles for 40M and 20M suspended from available trees. Checked out SWR and both antennas looked good. By 1715Z card table loaded with necessary supplies. MFJ9420 on 20M with Dave and OHR HP 40 on 40 with Fred (CW of course, what else is there?) Each rig using 12V 33AH battery with solar panel for recharge (not really needed as we found out later). **FAL** first out of the gate at 1802Z. Things really slow at first on 20M. 1950Z Randy **VA3GOT** first of the visitors, followed by Bill **VE3XT**, Phil **VE3AXL**, Gwen **VE3TRE** and Axel **VE3OPF**. Bands are in good shape, **AVS** makes first of three European contacts at 0354Z (running 1.5 watts!) By 1100Z 20M open to Europe and Southern U.S. Finally after 21 hours of operating, site dismantled. Thanks to our visitors and also to:

Radio Shack (Intercity Mall), City of Thunder Bay, Ministry of Transportation, and Kakabeka Crystal.

**P.S.** congratulations to **VE3FAL** for achieving top score in the Ontario QSO party – his picture was in the ODXA bulletin. Fred worked 31 QSO's for 62 points and with multipliers attained a grand total of 1302 points running QRP CW on 40 meters. A job well done!

**Packet is alive and well???**

Well.....maybe not in Thunder Bay, but the next time 2 meters FM even hints at an opening, try connecting to Duluth on 147.52 MHz via **W0TVD-7** and/or **WB0QFM**.....nice llinks (Ed.)

Stands for **Thunder Bay Amateur Radio Bikers**, a group within LARC who get together usually on weekends to go on bicycle tours. This year's active cyclists have been **VE3's SNW, FAL, AVS**, and **VA3's WRL** and **EAP**. **VA3's GOT** and **BRN** made their first trip this Fall. Tours have varied in length from 33K from Randy's QTH to Stanley Hotel and return, to over 60 K out to Kakabeka Falls, and down Lakeshore Drive to Crystal Beach restaurant and return. Although the cycling season is winding down, we still have a few more weekends. As this is being written, an outing for Sibley is planned for October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Anyone can join up with us....all you need is a bicycle (obviously), and some distance cycling experience. If you can pedal for about an hour non-stop at an average speed of around 20 Km per hour, you can handle our tours. You will need some hill climbing experience to do the Sibley ride. Bring a HT along to keep in touch with the group, and enjoy yourself. QSO any of the above for further information, and start preparing now for TBARs (Thunder Bay Amateur Radio Skiers)

Antenna Season is fast approaching

Get all your supplies at  
**T&S Radio Electronics**  
**Skip - VE3BBS**  
**Phone 807 767-5224**

Coax (RG213, RG8x, 300/450 Ohm Twin Lead)  
Connectors, Adaptors, Wire, Insulators  
Coax Seal, Baluns (1:1, 4:1, 6:1)  
<http://www.tbaytel.net/tsradio>

## LITTLE THUNDER QRP CLUB

The Club met August 16<sup>th</sup> at the home of Bill **VE3XT**. In addition to Bill were Wayne **VA3WRL**, Skip **VE3BBS**, Don **VE3CAP**, Vic **VA3BEL** and Fred **VE3FAL**.

This was the first meeting for Skip, Don and Vic and they enjoyed hearing about QRP and seeing some of the gear on hand, as well as some of the reading materials. Vic brought his TenTec Argonaut to show the gang, and Don brought some fancy enclosures that could be used for some nice QRP stuff. Bill had literature on the Spartan Sprints as well as the QRP/ARCI Fall QSO Party. He also displayed his homebrew paddle and a switched capacitor filter.

Fred brought his completed 38 Special, and his new Kenwood TH-G7 for satellite communications. He also brought along the W5KQJ Laser Transceiver boards, and a sample of the Little Thunder QRP Club Certificate and pictures of QRP Field Day.

There was some discussion about the various types of antennas and experimentation that has been carried out. The Club seems to be drawing out more people. We talked about how QRP is taking off like wildfire with amateur communities around the world.

Looking forward to the next meeting. Till then good DX.

(Tks Fred **VE3FAL** for submission.....Ed.)

### More on QRP.....

**VE3AVS** had the chance to use QRP during Field Day this past June, and I came away feeling that not only was QRP communicating with low power, it was taking us back to the roots of our hobby. It offers everyone an opportunity to build a working kit in a short period of time (some of us may have to be taught these skills by others - that's what our hobby used to be like!).

QRP sharpens our operating skills – you must learn to listen carefully. So why not give it a try???

## Excerpts from RAC Bulletin 00-071E

### Subject: 12 WPM Code Test

During the past year, RAC has consulted with the Canadian Amateur community in various ways concerning the existing 12 wpm code test for HF operating privileges.

The RAC Board of Directors has concluded that a majority of Canadian Amateurs support dropping the 12 wpm test although many are against such a change.

In a recent letter to Industry Canada, RAC President Kenneth Oelke, **VE6AFO**, recommended that full HF privileges be granted to amateurs who have passed a 5 wpm test. At the same time, it was requested that IC consider written tests to strengthen and expand the requirements for operator knowledge and skills in the areas of station set up and operation, on-air procedures and operating practices, and to include more questions on modern modes of communications used by amateurs.

This proposal would give Canadian amateurs privileges similar to those currently accorded U.S. amateurs who have passed a 5 wpm code test.

One aspect of the review of international regulations governing amateur services to take place at the next World Radio Conference in 2003 would be the testing requirements for access to frequencies below 30 MHz. This review is supported by the IARU which has members in 180 countries. Many of these countries are either considering or have already decided to decrease their Morse testing requirements.

A decision by Canada to drop the 12 wpm test would be in harmony with what is happening in other parts of the world and would simplify the negotiation and implementation of reciprocal operating agreements.

“This ‘telephone’ has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communication. The device is inherently of no value to use” – Western Union internal memo, 1876. (Tks **VE3AJ**)

### What's in a "cliché"???

A "cliché" is a phrase which stereotypes an individual. Some of us use these "cliches" on our transmissions as a matter of habit. Can you identify who uses each of the following "cliches" in their transmissions? Answers lie elsewhere in HI-Q...no peeking !

1. ".....back to you....."
2. ".....out and about....."
3. "Good morning world...."
4. "...in beautiful Northern Ontario..."
5. This ham's call is the same name as his daughter.
6. Runs a "taxi" service on the side?
7. Has Elvis Presley's initials in the call.
8. ".....good job.....toodle oo"
9. Don't always hear the beep (3 possible calls?)
10. ".....said that!"

(The above is meant in fun and no disrespect is intended toward anyone!!!....Ed.)

### Repeater reminders.....

-use **VE3TBR** if at all possible for phone calls; why tie up a longer distance repeater?

-always wait for the courtesy **BEEP** before transmitting

-if you're going to chat a while, switch to **146.94** or **147.39** to carry on or use simplex

to answer YQT dial in, identify yourself, **wait for one more ring**, then press \* to answer.

### Coming up.....

Members of the **Little Thunder QRP Club** will be making presentations at the October and November LARC meeting. There's just too much to cover in one evening. Equipment will be shown for display, and operating techniques will be discussed. Come out and see why QRP is one of the fastest growing aspects of our hobby !!!

### Future repeater site???

Ever drive down/back on Highway 61 and wish there was better repeater coverage along the way? Well, **VE3AVS** had nice QSO recently with Oscar, **K4EH**, about possible sites for a repeater. Oscar lives down 61 just a wee bit south of the border, and we got to talking about coverage. Oscar went so far as to email a map of the area centered on Maude Mountain, an elevation which lies just across the border near the old border crossing. This site already has a tower and power, and is accessible. It is used by the county sheriff's office. It's not much lower than Mount Josephine, and could be a good site for a repeater. It could be worthwhile to explore this as a joint venture with the operators in Grand Marais. Any interest out there???

### Thisn' that.....

You're getting old when you get the same sensation from a rocking chair you once got from a roller coaster.

Never be afraid to try something new. Remember,..... amateurs built the ark.....professionals built the Titanic.

Politicians and diapers have one thing in common; they should both be changed regularly and for the same reasons. (Tks **VE3GTX**)

**Heart of Thunder Bay Races.....**

The Heart Races saw around 280 entries this year, apparently the largest turnout to date. LARC had several runners and volunteers who turned out for the event. Helping out with communications were **VE3's RVA, ICY, XRC, BBS** and **WCW** (learning the ropes!), and **VA3's IOU** and **AMY**. A big thank you to those who worked the race. (Tks Jan **VA3JRS**).

**Help...help...help....help...**

**VA3ROM** is looking for FT-243 holder type crystals for Heath HW-16 with the following frequencies:

7.030 MHz, 3500 kHz, or 3750 kHz. Anything within these frequency ranges would be appreciated. (Crystals?...hmmm.....aren't those things antiques? So QSO Bill **VE3AJ!** ....Ed.)

**More tidbits.....**

You **could** be a potential RF Engineer if.....

- your automobile has more antennas than a TV news van
- if your decision to buy a car is based on how much space there is to mount equipment and antennas
- if you see a tree simply as a place to hang antennas
- if you gaze upon a coffee tin and think, "I can make an orthogonal multi-mode antenna feed-horn from that" (Tks **VE3BBS**)

**Repeater update.....**

The Ignace repeater now has phone patch capability. (Tks **VA3WGD**)

**Time to drool.....**

Check out this website:

<http://members.aol.com/wx2nj/aresbox.html/>

**WX2NJ** has constructed a really beautiful AREX communications center within a portable enclosure. The heart of the center is a Kenwood TM-261 running 50 watts on 2 meters. There is a 12.5 amp switching power supply running off 120 VAC, as well as 36 AH gel cells which are charged when the box is plugged in. LED's show the status of the batteries and there is a two-speed cooling fan. There is also a built-in speaker with plug-in jacks for headphone operation. Finally, **WX2NJ** provides some gorgeous photographs, as well as diagrams for interconnecting and for the LED battery monitoring circuit. This guy put it all together in about 12 hours! (Tks to Randy **VA3GOT** ???)

Skip **VE3BBS** emailed [www.yesterdaysoffice.com/](http://www.yesterdaysoffice.com/) as a site to visit, but after waiting 4 minutes I scrubbed it. Maybe someone else has more patience than me! (Ed.)

The U.S. Weather Channel can be accessed at

[www.weather.com/weather\\_center/storm\\_watch/](http://www.weather.com/weather_center/storm_watch/)

This is a good radar site for storm activity. (Tks Al **VA3AMY**).

Finally, Jerry Proc, **VE3FAB**, has developed a short story about the Decca Navigator system and has posted it to:

<http://webhome.idirect.com/~jproc/sari/decca.html>

The Decca Navigator system was first powered up on D-Day minus 1 in June 1944, and by 1989 there were 42 operational Decca Navigator chains around the world. On March 31, 2000, the British General Lighthouse Authority closed down chains in Britain thus heralding the demise of an excellent marine navigational system. (Tks Skip **VE3BBS**).

## Down Memory Lane.....

**High-Q October 1965...** President Ed Babudro **VE3ECU**, VP Dave Kimpton **VE3AVS**, Secretary/Treasurer Jim Symonik **VE3EDA**, with Directors Hans Dornbusch **VE3EEN**, Errol "Doc" Tarnow **VE3FSE**, Fred Lawrence **VE3EET**, High-Q Editor Barrie Walker **VE3EES**.

The September meeting was held at the EMO building corner Waterloo and Victoria (**VE3ZCD**). There were several amendments to the Constitution dealing with classes, dues, membership and meetings. **VE3's AVS** and **FSE** were course instructors for the winter session. Bill Roberts, **VE3ARN** demonstrated his new Galaxie V SSB equipment. Picnics, raffles and parties were planned to bolster the club's ailing bank account.

**For Sale ....**Dave **VE3AVS** had an ARC-5 VHF receiver at \$65. Barrie Walker **VE3EES** (who was a student) put his complete station up for sale: Knight T-150A (\$125), Hallicrafters SX-140 (\$120), and several miscellaneous items. Or you might prefer a Heath DX-60 with crystals and external VFO from **VE3FSE**. Or how about a Hallicrafters SX-43 receiver (\$185) from **VE3EET**?

Local news.....**DZJ** on 75 with a Viking mobile transmitter.....**EDW**'s rig is all apart.....**ECG** on 75 SSB.....**EES** got 300 points in the VE/W contest.....**EEW** sometimes heard on 80/20 cw and SSB.....transmitter hunting on 75 meters was popular.

Lastly, a circuit diagram was shown on the last page for a simple capacitor checker.

73 de ve3avs

### Answers to "cliches" quiz....

- |     |                            |
|-----|----------------------------|
| 1.  | <b>VE3RVA</b>              |
| 2.  | <b>VE3AVS</b>              |
| 3.  | <b>VE3AJ</b>               |
| 4.  | <b>VA3BNO</b>              |
| 5.  | <b>VA3AMY</b>              |
| 6.  | <b>VA3WRL</b>              |
| 7.  | <b>VA3EAP</b>              |
| 8.  | <b>VA3AY</b>               |
| 9.  | <b>VE3's NPS, FQH, WRZ</b> |
| 10. | <b>VE3WCW</b>              |

### On-air events reminder from RAC....

- Oct. 1 – RSGB 21/28 MHz SSB contest
- Oct. 7 – TARA PSK31 rumble
- Oct. 7-8 VK/ZL Oceania DX phone contest
- Oct. 7 – EU Autumn SSB Sprint
- Oct. 7-8 California QSO Party
- Oct. 7-8 Iberamerica Contest
- Oct. 10 10-10 Day Sprint

Chck RAC web site or TCA for additional details.

## Finally.....

**I have been informed Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> is the cutoff date for receiving HI-Q if your dues are in arrears. You may reinstate your email address to the editor after paying your dues.**

(thanks Jan **VA3JRS** for information...Ed.)

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club  
held in Room 207B at Confederation College,  
Thunder Bay, Ontario on September 14, 2000**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by the President VA3RIM, Ian Mellis with 50 members and guests in attendance. The newly licensed amateurs introduced themselves. A roundtable then followed with those in attendance introducing themselves.

**Minutes of the Meeting held June 8, 2000**

The minutes of the meeting held June 8, 2000 were published in detail in the September edition of "HI-Q" and distributed to all members.

**Motion:** moved by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie and seconded by VE3RVA, Bob Hansen that the minutes be accepted as distributed.  
**Carried.**

**Correspondence:**

- letter of thanks from C.N.I.B. for our donation
- letter of thanks from Fiona McKenna re the Conquer The Dog Triathlon
- letter from the City of Thunder Bay re a new proposed 55+ Centre for the south side of the City

**Treasurer's Report:** VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski

Balance as of May 31, 2000		\$ 1,989.37	
Income	50/50 Draw	10.50	
	Publication Sales	20.00	
	Donation	5.00	
	Class Fee	<u>40.00</u>	75.50
Expenses	HI-Q	93.16	
	Telephone	121.11	
	Misc.	1.20	
	Bank Service Charge	1.35	
	Confederation Col	100.00	
	Repeater Maint	<u>107.95</u>	424.77
Balance as of August 31, 2000			\$ 1,640.10

**Motion:** moved by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski and seconded by VE3AJ, Bill Klemacki that the Treasurer's report be accepted.  
**Carried.**

**Committee Reports:**

**Equipment:** Terry Stewardson reported that most of the technicians had taken the summer off. They will try to track down the source of interference heard on VE3YQT. Upsala is still working well and will be given it's annual check-up in the near future.

**ARES:** VA3GOT, Randy Gottfred reported that the plans for Y2K went off without a hitch. We now have a good foot in the door with the O.P.P. A SET (simulated emergency test) will be held the first weekend of November. He plans to have a new telephone callout tree ready for the October meeting.

**Public Service:** VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki reported that it had been a busy summer with the Conquer The Dog Triathlon and the Air Show. Coming up is the Heart Of Thunder Bay Race and the O.P.P. Christmas Parade. Mike also announced that he is stepping down as the Club's Public Service Coordinator.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**

**Nominating Committee Report:**

Terry Stewardson and VE3INI, Andy Malcolm presented the report of the nominating committee. Nominations for each position were also solicited from the floor. As a result, ballots were required for the position of President as well as for the four positions of Director.

**Motion:** moved by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie and seconded by VA3JRS, Jan Sokoloski that the ballots for the election of President be destroyed.

**Carried.**

**Motion:** moved by VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie and seconded by VE3HZW, Mike Wolowich that the ballots for the four Directors position be destroyed.

**Carried.**

The following is the Executive of the Lakehead Amateur Radio Club for 2000 - 2001:

President	VE3BBS Skip Wright
Vice President	VE3RVA Bob Hansen
Secretary	VA3EAP Judy Artist
Treasurer	VA3JRS Jan Sokoloski
Directors	VE3SNW Ed Baumann
	VE3INI Andy Malcolm
	VA3PP Pat Pugh
	VA3MOB Maureen Meredith
Past President	VA3RIM Ian Mellis

The floor was turned over to the new President and the gavel was passed on by VA3RIM, Ian Mellis. Skip thanked those who have served the Club in the past for their time and effort.

#### **Proposed New 55+ Centre:**

The City of Thunder Bay is proposing a new 55+ Centre for the south side of the City and is looking for input from groups such as the Lakehead amateur Radio Club. A discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of establishing an amateur radio station in the new centre taking into account the station located on River Street.

The question arose as to whether or not such a station would be accessible to the general membership.

**Motion:** moved by VE3PD, Pat Doherty and seconded by VA3XRM, Rod McLeod that the LARC respectfully decline the City's generous offer, but encourage any seniors to follow up if interested.

**Defeated.**

**Motion:** moved by VE3SNW, Ed Baumann and seconded by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki that this item be deferred until the October meeting and that a committee be struck to investigate this matter further.

**Carried.**

This committee will consist of VE3SNW, Ed Baumann, VE3NCN, Joan Klemacki, Terry Stewardson, VE3GTX, John Watson and VE3RVA, Bob Hansen.

**50/50 Draw:** winner of the 50/50 Draw was VE3BHN, Bob Gillespie. As well, there were three draws compliments of VE3OPF, Axel Rehfuß. Winners of the Calling cards were VE3FLB, Rob Van Wyck, VA3ROM, Rob Mazur and VA3AMY, Al Sokoloski.

#### **HI-Q Editor:**

**Motion:** moved by VE3FLB, Rob Van Wyck and seconded by VE3GTX, John Watson that we recognize VE3AVS, Dave Kimpton for his outstanding work in the monthly publication of "HI-Q".

**Carried.**

**Public Service Coordinators:** VA3MOB, Maureen Meredith and VE3XLB, Linda Bell volunteered jointly to take on the position of Public Service Coordinator due to the retirement of VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki.

**Adjournment:** moved by VE3ZG, Mike Nawrocki that the meeting be adjourned. **Carried.**

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**Don't miss a single copy of HI-Q. Send your change of address notice to the Club.**